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ISSUE #4

TARENTUM MAGAZINE

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**Tarentum High
Memories**

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MISSION

Tarentum Borough Magazine was created for Tarentum Borough residents and surrounding communities to enjoy and engage in the good works and pleasures of others. Tarentum Borough Magazine is available online and in print. The magazine promotes community values that make Tarentum Borough an asset to all.

Managed & Edited by: Hugh & Carrie Fox – The Tarentum Recreation Board

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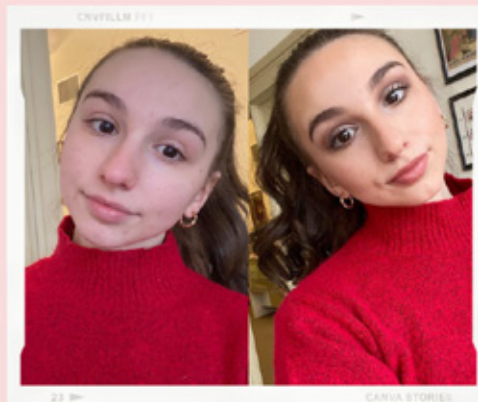


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May 26- American Pie

June 9- Up The River

June 30- The Jentz

July 7- Miss Freddie

July 21- Lets Duet

Aug 11- Daniels & McClain

Aug 25- Lenny Collini 4 Pack



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For more information visit facebook.com/TarentumRecreationBoard/ or contact Carrie Fox at 724-448-1470

Other Tarentum Events



TARENTUM NIGHT MARKET Third Thursdays: May - Nov., 5PM-8PM

For a List of PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES GO TO: facebook.com/TarentumNightMarket

TARENTUM FARMER'S MARKET Jun. 8 - Oct. 26, Weds 9am - 1pm *Corner of Lock and 10th*



TARENTUM FALL FESTIVAL September 8,9 &10

TARENTUM BOROUGH CRAFT BEER, MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL October 1



KIDS' ART CONTEST AT THE MANOS—Tarentum's Manos Gallery is inviting young artists, ages 5 to 18, to send a photo or photocopy of a single work of their original art to the Manos Gallery for exhibition during May of 2022. Entrants may only submit one work, no larger than 24 x 30. A group of professional artists will select art pieces for exhibition.

Photos and photocopies are to be submitted to manosgallery@yahoo.com by **April 16, 2022**. A scholarship will be awarded to the final top three entries in each of three age categories. All works exhibited will be available for sale and a portion of the commission will be donated to The Children's Free Care Fund at Pittsburgh's Childrens' Hospital. *Contact the Manos Gallery of Tarentum for more.*



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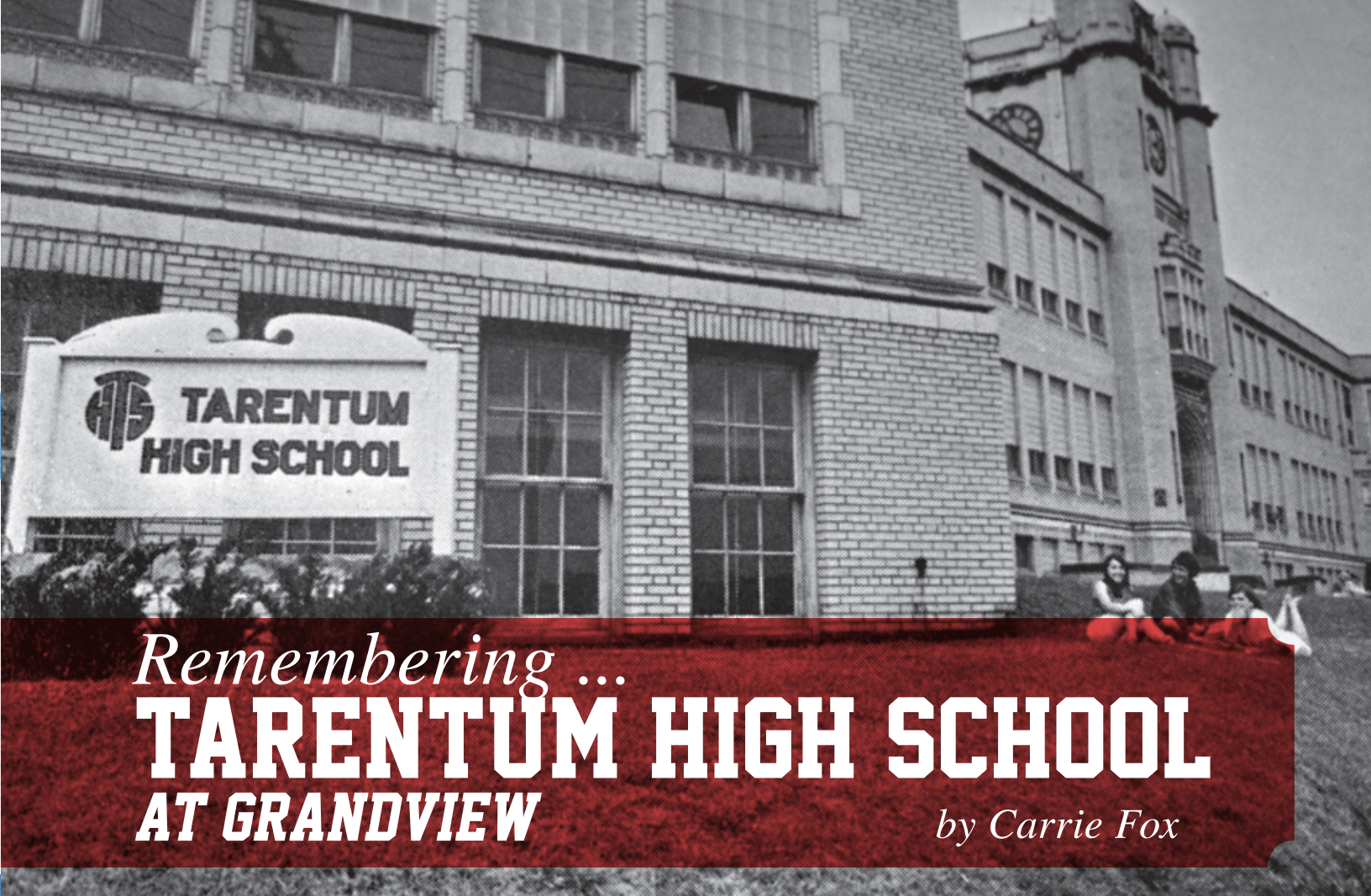
HAVE SOME NEWS / A STORY?
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Thank you for reading TARENTUM MAGAZINE: *Crossroads of the Allegheny Valley*! We invite the whole community to contribute. Please feel free to **send your stories, news, or photos**, and you could see them end up here!



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Remembering ...
TARENTUM HIGH SCHOOL
AT GRANDVIEW
by Carrie Fox

“BEFORE ITS TIME!” says Bob Hohman, 1956 Tarentum High graduate, of the imposing building known as Grandview—once home to Tarentum High School. “It was and still is, a remarkable and inspiring building.”

History tells us that the location for the new school was selected specifically for its commanding view of Tarentum. It was Joseph K. Fulton, Sr. who gave it the name of Grandview. But it was the famous architect, Press C. Dowler who designed the remarkable building with its majestic bell tower, impressive clock, gargoyles and magnificent stairway.

And if the site of the school was chosen for its view of Tarentum, once the structure was built, it was Grandview itself that became a sight to behold. After the Tarentum bridge was built in the 1950s, Grandview became the very symbol of the community for the thousands catching sight of it as they crossed the span toward Tarentum.

Grandview first opened in 1915 as a grade school. It became Tarentum High School in 1928 when First Ward School could no longer accommodate the growing high school student population.

Tarentum High School graduates have many happy memories of their time at the Grandview site. There were the Redcats’ athletic achievements like winning the 1940 WPIAL Football Championship and the 1968 Basketball Championship. There were many academic and artistic accomplishments as well as clubs, traditions and of course fun.

In 1968 Tarentum School District merged with Har-Brack to become Highlands School District. The last Tarentum High School graduation ceremony took place on June 5, 1968. Following the merger, Grandview underwent extensive renovations and is today once again, an elementary school.

TARENTUM HIGH SCHOOL— GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

“Everyone knew everyone no matter if you were in 7th grade or 12th grade,” says Jean Pavlik of Tarentum’s class of 1953. “We were all friends and remained friends. “Dances, football games and all of the extra-curricular activities were the greatest.”

Bob Hohman’s fondest memories were the Basketball games in the gym, especially when going to the play offs. “Crowds were so large; it was standing room only. The whole community came out to support them. It was a very special time.”

“I enjoyed being a majorette for 4 years. I loved it!” says Jane McClelland, a 1964 graduate who reminisced about all the fun, like Henry’s and the Sadie Hawkins dance.

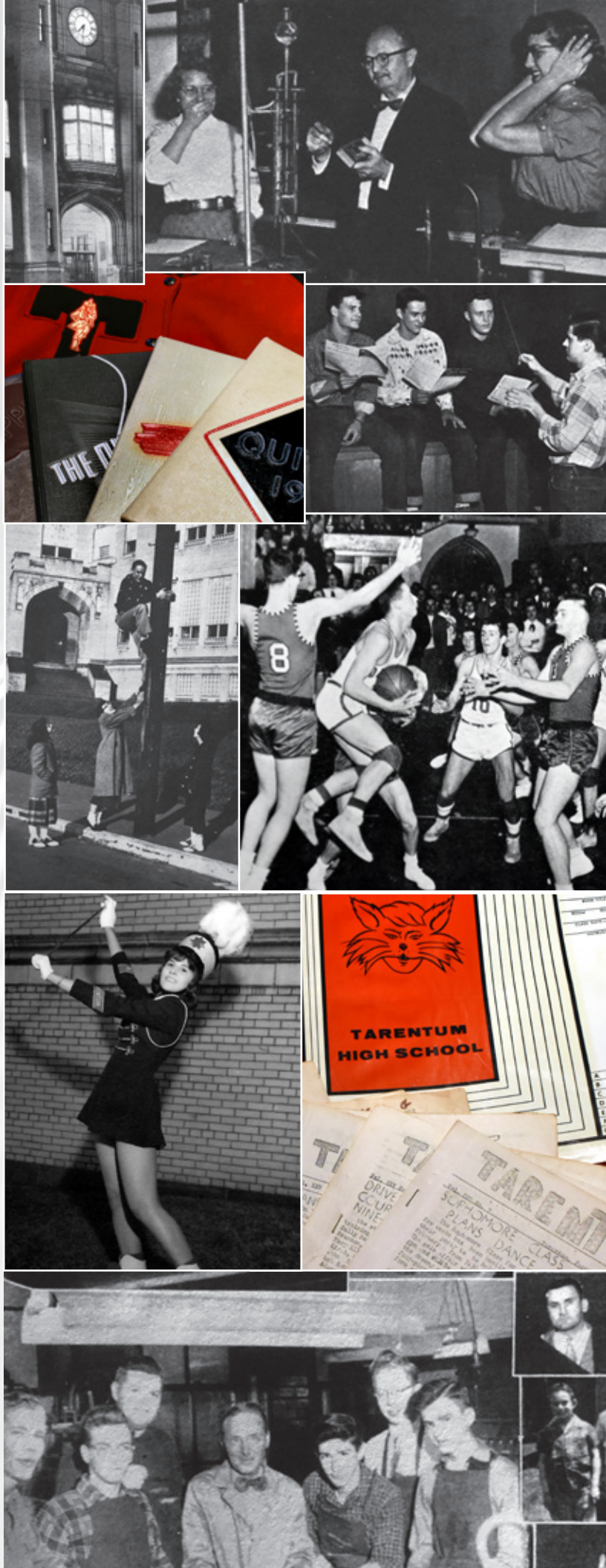
To this day, many Tarentum High School groups meet monthly for a classmates’ luncheon. A group from the class of 1956 has been doing this for years. “Meeting with high school friends brings back all the memories, reminiscing about fun times that kids don’t experience today,” says Barb Magnosta of the class of 1956.

Rose Mary “Babe” Mazza, class of 1949, loved that her class was called “The forty-niners.” She remembers walking to school, making four trips a day from West Tarentum to the high school, home for lunch, back to school, then home again. “We were all one big community.”

Tarentum High School memories last a lifetime and we know there are many more out there. We invite all Tarentum High alums to send in their favorite memories of being a Redcat and we’ll publish them in this magazine for others to enjoy.

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BLACKBURN'S Physicians Pharmacy, Inc.

THE EARLY YEARS!

BY CHARLES R. BLACKBURN, RP

I grew up in my father's business, founded in 1936—85 years ago.

Born 1909 in Trafford PA, Charles E. Blackburn was the youngest of nine children. His family relocated to Florida when he was in high school because my grandfather had developed pulmonary disease as a coal miner and couldn't endure the pollution and harsh Pennsylvania winters. Father was allowed to live with his best friend, Wyant Dettis, whose father owned Wyant's Drug Company in Trafford. He worked in the drug store which had a full fledge soda fountain and booming lunch counter. Food was prepared by Mrs. Dettis and her sister in the two floors above where they all lived. The memory of food odors, especially of



fish on Fridays permeated the building and would remain with my father for life.

Father graduated from Pitt Pharmacy School in 1931 and passed the state board in 1932. His independence showed when he and five friends decided to see the USA in an open touring car, working their way to California. By 1934, he was back in Trafford and ready to work, taking a job for Central Drug Store of Pittsburgh, which sent him to Tarentum.

Tarentum was a busy town and Central Drug had two stores on Corbet Street, one beside Greeks Confectionary and

the other beside Fishkin's Ladies Apparel Store. He found a room in Mrs. Stevenson's Tea Room that first night and wrote my future mother, Jane: "This is a hellava town and I think less of the job."

Two years later, on March 15, 1936, the devastating St. Patrick's Day Flood struck the Allegheny Valley towns. Father managed one Central Drug and Elder Stein managed the other. When the water receded, their district manager instructed them to salvage and clean what had been under water and place the items for resale. Disgusted at the thought of doing such a thing to their customers, Stein and my Father decided to resign their positions and start their own business as partners.



They borrowed \$250 from Dr. Orris, MD and opened BLACKBURN-STEIN DRUG STORE at 408 E. Sixth Avenue, chosen for its location above the flood plain. Years later, Mr. Stein relocated to Squirrel Hill. Father needing a larger store, closer to the bus routes and physicians' offices, moved into the Mauro Building on the southeast corner of Third Avenue and Corbet streets, hiring William Ross, RP.

I was just a kid in the 1940's but I have vivid memories of my very first job, delivering Smallpox vaccine to Dr. Leydic's office. I was only four or five, but I recall running up the steps, the receptionist announcing that the vaccine had arrived and Dr. Leydic shouting, "Send Chuckie in." He would weigh me and check my height on his large scale each time I made a delivery. Today, I have that same scale in my office.

In 1952, the 301 Corbet Street lot where Blackburn's Pharmacy is located today, became available when the Borough decided to move the WWII Honor Roll to Tarentum Park. My father decided to buy the lot and build his own pharmacy there. His offer of \$1,000 was accepted, but when he went to the attorney's office to complete the deal, he learned the price had changed to \$10,000. The attorney told him that he had bought the lot saying, "You are now buying it from me. That is how business is done. Get used to it!" Father paid the price but never forgot the importance of ethics.



The steel strike prevented construction of the building as planned. Two years later, in 1954, Bill Larkin, VND photographer, photographed my father in the new pharmacy. His logo was

"THE VALLEY'S FIRST TRULY PROFESSIONAL PHARMACY"

-no soda fountain, no lunch counter, no food odors!

By the time I was in 8th or 9th grade, I was filling prescriptions and being educated by my father's employee, Will Lloyd, RP, about the importance of knowing the side effects of drugs. These were valuable lessons, underscored by today's laws where pharmacists counsel patients.

Before I knew it, it was 1956, and I was graduating from Tarentum High. My parents wanted me to become a doctor. My father was a pharmacist and I did not know what I wanted to do. A serendipitous meeting with David Dodds, assistant principal, suggested something else might interest me and off I went to study Biology.

Simultaneously, the Heights Plaza opened, the Tarentum business district was collapsing. Physicians were relocating to the Heights Plaza Medical Center. When I returned from college in 1960, our business was near bankruptcy, and father was working 13-hour days, seven days a week. Med School was out of the question.

My greatest fear was father's arduous work would end with him selling the business.

To be continued in our next issue...



This is the receipt acknowledging the \$250.00 loan from Dr. Orris used to open Blackburn-Stein Drug Store. June 2, 1936

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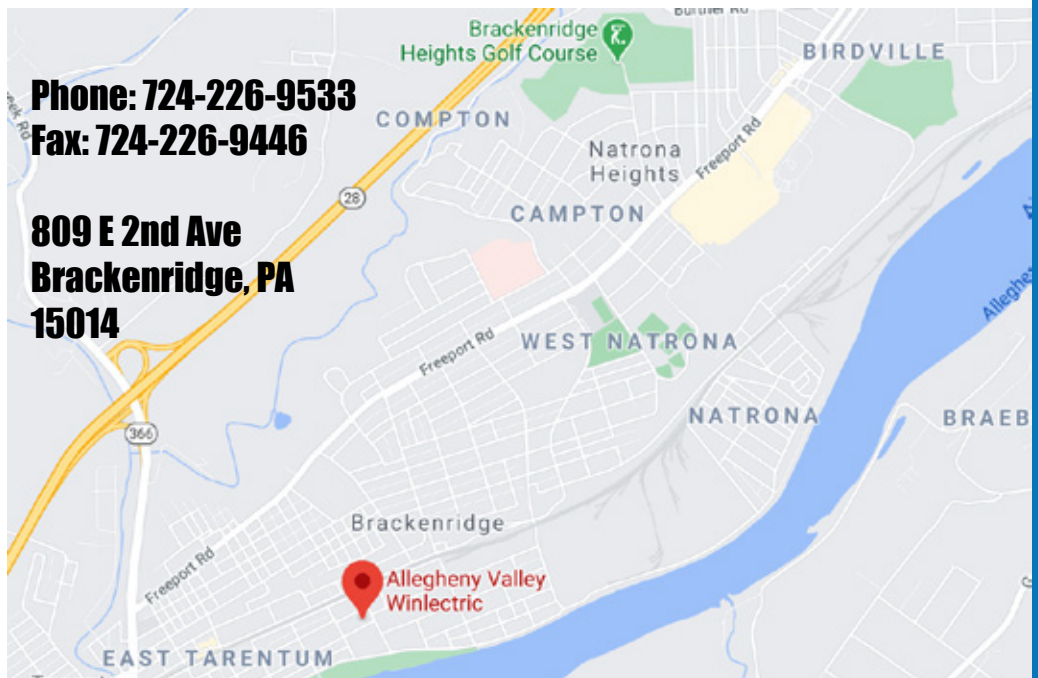
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A BIG-TIME BREWERY

IN CREIGHTON AND TARENTUM GETS TO SHARE SOME OF THE SPOTLIGHT

by Carrie Fox & Tom Costello

The Pittsburgh Brewing Company is the talk of the region these days. And Tarentum has big role in all of this—*IT'S OUR WATER.*

An army of welders, electricians, carpenters, and other specialists has transformed the former Pittsburgh Plate Glassworks (PPG) in Creighton into what brewery owner, Cliff Forrest says will be one of the top breweries on the east coast. PBC President Todd Zwicker confirmed this state-of-the-art brewery will become a destination that will boast a brewery store, museum, marina, and who knows what else.





But even before any of those ideas become reality, it is the brewery itself that will be the destination. Once the enormous tanks are polished, visitors will be able to stand on the mezzanine—high above the floor and view the whole operation and it will be quite a spectacle. First, there's the sheer size of the place—so big you can hardly see from one end to the other. Then there are the miles of stainless-steel pipes, tubes, and processing lines that took a team of welders more than 10,000 welds to complete. Through this system, will flow thousands of gallons of beer in various stages of the brewing process. The finished brew is then stored in enormous tanks—15 of them containing 500 gallons each of fermentation vessels and 10 more tanks containing

250 gallons each. For tourists on the mezzanine, it will be an awesome sight.

And what of the beer? It was President Zwicker who was determined to have a great team. Among them is Director of Brewing and Quality Assurance, Brandon Mayes, who was making a name for himself at a brewery in Vermont.

“People will be able to stand on the mezzanine—high above the ground and view the whole operation. It will be quite a spectacle.”

Although Mayes loved Vermont, with its mountains and year-round outdoor activities, he happily confides, “They didn't have to do any arm twisting to get me to Pittsburgh Brewery,” Mayes originally hails from York, Pennsylvania and proudly identifies as a diehard Steeler, Penguin, and Pirate fan. And he's excited to explore all of our region's near-by hiking trails, bike paths and other natural wonders.

Mayes, a youngish man, earned his undergraduate degree in biology at Dartmouth specializing in aquatic ecology, studying plankton. Brandon had long been an avid home brewer. “I know a lot about water and water chemistry and wanted to get into brewing, which he did at Long Trail and Otter Creek. I just basically love beer!

“IRON CITY is a great beer with a crisp, refreshing taste.”



When Carrie Fox, Tarentum Council at Large and Tarentum Magazine Publisher Tom Costello recently toured the new Pittsburgh Brewery in Creighton they learned that brewery owner Cliff Forrest chose to purchase the former PPG building for conversion into a brewery because the company's former brewery site in Lawrenceville would have been too costly to convert to up-to-date brewing standards. Since the Lawrenceville site was closed, Iron City Beer, I.C. Light, I.C. Light Mango, Old German and Block House beer have been brewed at the old Rolling Rock facility in Latrobe.

Once the Creighton site is fully operational, all Pittsburgh Brewery products will be brewed at the new Creighton facility.



“Iron City is a great beer, with a crisp, refreshing taste.”

And this is where Tarentum and its water flow into the story. According to Mayes, the quality of the water is the most important ingredient in any beer. Tarentum water is a good fit because it is low in salt and calcium. It's what the experts call, a neutral water and the only thing that must be removed is the residual chlorine.

Mayes says, “What I do is recipe development and design...breaking beer down into biochemical components, looking specifically at the water profile you're going to brew with, the fermentation profile. The quality aspect of my job is making sure we have the equipment

and procedures in place that will get us the specifications that we want. For example there is a very small window for bitterness, a very small window for color, for carbonation and for alcohol content.”

“I'm fortunate in that I can start the brewing process with the right water. Tarentum water allows us to maintain a consistent water profile, which is essential to achieving the exact same taste in every batch. Beer lovers expect this.”

Pittsburgh Brewery is expected to open for business this summer.

“TARENTUM WATER allows us to maintain a consistent water profile, which is essential to achieving the exact same taste in every batch. Beer lovers expect this.”





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A NEW ERA

For Our Library System

By Cindy Homburg

Board Member, Community Library of Allegheny Valley



Lots of innovations are coming with the new director of the Community Library of Allegheny Valley. She is Suzy Ruskin. She replaces Kathy Firestone— a dedicated and forward-thinking professional, who we were fortunate to have as director for thirty years.

Suzy worked under Kathy Firestone for three years as Circulation Manager and later as an Assistant Director, so many of you may already know her. She began working in libraries in high school— first at the Andrew Carnegie Free Library in Carnegie and later as the director at the Moon Township and Greentree Libraries.

Suzy holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from LaRoche University, a teaching degree in Library Science, and a Masters degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh.

One challenge for Suzy will be to get all the communities in our district involved with the library. The Community Library of Allegheny Valley encompasses Brackenridge, East Deer Township, Fawn Township, Frazer Township, Natrona, Natrona Heights, and Tarentum.

Funding, fundraising and grant writing will be an important part of her job. Public libraries always need money to keep up-to-date with new materials and the latest in technology. As many already know, libraries of today are not only places where you can borrow books, they are also learning centers.

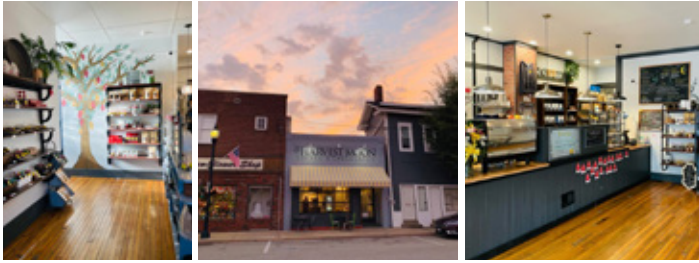
Suzy and her husband John have two sons, Alex and Henry.

We are excited for the future of the Community Library of Allegheny Valley under the direction of this highly qualified and energetic professional. We wish Suzy Ruskin the very best.





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We'll have plenty more news and surprises to share in the coming months and years ahead, but for now, we can say that this massive undertaking is quickly taking form thanks to the tireless work of incredible people.

Your first beer from the new Pittsburgh Brewing Co. headquarters: Pouring in 2022.

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The nearly **36,000 square-foot** AHN Harmar Neighborhood Hospital, 2501 Freeport Road, opened in October of 2020 with numerous patient-friendly design elements.



Its innovative features include nursing stations uniquely configured to maximize sight-lines and accessibility, allowing staff to easily monitor exam rooms and minimize response times. Advanced CT and X-ray procedure rooms accommodate patients of any age, with adjacent observation rooms that keep families together during procedures. An onsite lab expedites testing results for patients.

AHN Harmar Neighborhood Hospital provides the kind of patient-centric care a special place like Harmar – a friendly community with small-town charm – truly deserves.



But the town's abundant natural amenities could not provide one crucial resource its residents lacked – convenient access to high-quality healthcare. A joint-venture partnership between Allegheny Health Network (AHN) and Emerus, the nation's first and largest operator of neighborhood (small format) hospitals, provided the perfect solution.

Unlike stand-alone emergency departments or urgent care centers, AHN Harmor Neigh-

borhood Hospital is a fully licensed hospital that provides 24/7 access to emergency care. Staffed by board-certified physicians, nurses and other experienced healthcare professionals, the facility houses a cutting-edge emergency department developed for efficient quality care. This includes treatment for illnesses such as pneumonia, cellulitis and many of the conditions that are beneficial to be closer to home. A 10-bed inpatient unit further benefits the overall patient experience.

The facility is the fourth of its kind that AHN and Emerus have constructed across the Western Pennsylvania region. The other AHN neighborhood hospitals are located in Hempfield Township, McCandless Township and Brentwood. All of the hospitals accept most insurance plans.

Fast, convenient access to high-quality care sets these facilities apart. On average, in the U.S., it takes about 90 minutes for a patient to be seen by a doctor in a hospital emergency room. It takes nearly

AHN Harmor
Neighborhood Hospital
is a fully licensed hospital
that provides
24/7 access
to emergency care.



three hours before a patient is discharged or admitted. At AHN Harmar, the average wait time is less than 10 minutes, and the average door-to-discharge time is less than 90 minutes. The patient experience is improved even more through an innovative online check-in and pre-registration process.

AHN's Outpatient Center in the Waterworks Mall on Freeport Road is located a few miles south of the AHN Harmar Neighborhood Hospital location and AHN's Allegheny Valley Hospital is located off of Freeport Road north of Harmar in Natrona Heights. Together, the three facilities offer patients who live in the area a broad scope of closely integrated, close-to-home emergency, inpatient and outpatient services.

"The AHN Harmar Neighborhood Hospital allows us to meet a wide range of health needs, right here in the community, meaning patients can spend less time tending to their healthcare, and more time doing the things they love," says AHN Harmar Neighborhood Hospital Director of Nursing Ashley Hofmeister.

AHN's Neighborhood Hospitals are also committed to being good community partners, as was demonstrated last year during the 121st U.S. Amateur Championship held at the Oakmont Country Club.

"As AHN continues to grow, we look forward to working on other large-scale events in our region, as well as finding new ways to serve our communities," says AHN Harmar Hospital Administrator Kevin Gundlach.

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I'M PROUD TO BE A WEST TARENTUM GIRL!

By **Barbara Staricek Magnetta**



I was born, raised and lived in West Tarentum all my life and I can tell you, I had the most awesome childhood anyone could experience!

Most people would never imagine the great variety of businesses that were located along and around West Seventh Avenue. You could say that we had almost every type of store or professional service anyone would need. Our house was right there on West Eighth Avenue, so I got to grow up with my Saint Clement Church & School on West Ninth Avenue plus all the candy and ice cream stores that I could walk or run to—which I frequented quite often. It doesn't get any better than that for a kid!

We had grocery stores like Prackos Groceries, which was my most favorite. I would run down there through the lot beside the Allegheny Valley General Hospital on West Seventh Avenue at lunch time to get freshly cut lunch meat. Other food stores included Sam's Fruit Market, Gaydos and Davidek's Butcher Shops, and Da-

videk's Restaurant, Thorofare, Sparkle Markets, and Painter's Variety Store.

Never short on wonderful bakers and sweet treats, West Tarentum had the Dennis Bakery, Reitler Bakery, Culligan's Penny-Candy Store and Altany's Confectionary Store. Then there were the soda fountains at Murtland's and Mainz Drug Stores and Bard's, which served delicious ice cream specialties.

West Seventh Avenue was booming and bustling every day and we even had a trolley for a time. So says Joseph Bodnar, a longtime resident, and military veteran, who is up on his Tarentum history. He so graciously shared his memories and knowledge with me in the writing of this article. As Joseph explained, "The trolley would take you anywhere for 15 cents. You boarded on Ross Street and were able to go as far as the Natrona Heights honor roll." Joseph says the trolley cars were in existence from 1936 through 1945.

On the corner of the newly built Tarentum Bridge and West Seventh Avenue was Henry's, a popular snack shop with its lunch counter, jukebox and pinball machines. Teenagers from all over crowded the dance floor on Friday nights. Across the street from Henry's was Greenwald Ford. Farther down West Seventh Avenue were the Allegheny and Torrence Gasoline Stations,



West Seventh Avenue was booming and bustling every day and we even had a trolley for a time.

Motosicke Jeweler, Yannuzzi Shoe Repair, Freidman's Furniture Store, the Jednota Slovak Club, and a State Liquor Store.

West Tarentum even had its own theatre, the Penn, located on the two-hundred block of West Seventh Avenue. We also had professional services like Carlaccini Dental, Frank's Flower Shop, Doctor McQuade's office, Sacco and Lovasik Insurance, Posney Electric and two funeral homes, Dusters and Schottenheimers.

If a child was given a couple of pennies, a nickel or dime they could run to any of the "Mom and Pop Stores" that were on most corners. Vrsankys, Red Browns, Majewskis, Michaleks, Drobkas, Durkacs, Lettrichs and Sagaths, to name a few.



To burn off the calories and have some fun, we could go down to West End Field where the Tarentum baseball team played. In addition to the ball field, there were swings, and a huge sand box. West End Field was located below West Sixth Avenue, beyond the railroad tracks. It was large enough to have several events going on simultaneously.

All in all, you could say we had the best of all worlds, growing up in West Tarentum.

I guess that is why I am still living here.

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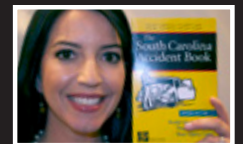
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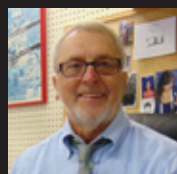
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TARENTUM BUSINESS DIRECTORY



Tarentum Business List

- Professional Services
- Bar/Restaurant
- Automotive
- Construction
- Industry
- Beauty
- Shopping
- Sports/Recreation
- Child Care – Day Care
- Convenience Store/Grocery
- Digital Media/Printing
- Food/Wholesale
- Banking
- Cleaning
- Event Space
- Moving Companies
- Recycling/Scrap
- Ambulance Service
- Art Gallery
- Computing
- Other / No value

Interactive Map can be found at <http://tarentumboro/information/community>

TARENTUM BUSINESS DIRECTORY



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Eureka Ambulance Service 724-224-1499, 304 3rd Ave

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The Manos Gallery 484-529-1597, 320 E5th Ave

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 Dynamic Service Center 412-855-9340 - 150 W4th Ave
 Gatto Cycle Shop 724-224-0500, 117 E7th Ave
 Howard's Auto Repairs 724-226-2448 - 139 E7th Ave
 Highland Tire /

Bonnett Enterprises 724-224-9222, 200 Boyd St
 Ron Gillette Inc. 724-226-1222, 326 2nd Ave
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 Schuster Automotive 724-954-9691, 320 E7th Ave
 Tarentum Splash-N-Dash 724-230-0603, 110 2nd Ave
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 Valley Wide of Pa FCU 724-226-1664, 209 5th Ave

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 Cindy's Home Town
 & Soft Serve 724-671-7626, 309 E4th Ave

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 Fox's Pizza 724-224-6923, 407 E6th Ave
 Fraternal Order
 of Eagles #699 724-224-9966, 204 Wood St
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 Massart's Restaurant 724-224-2333, 310 E6th Ave
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 Pollock Lodge F&AM 724-226-2929, 307 Lock St
 Praha Hotel 724-224-2112, 400 Corbet St
 Slovak American Club 724-226-2888, 147 W7th Ave
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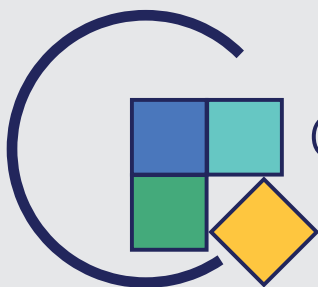
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